

Approved  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**November 18, 2013**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a meeting on Monday, November 18, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield.

Present: Councilors, Kotkin, Manousos, Martino, Montinieri, Rell, Roberts, Deputy Mayor Barry, and Chairperson Montinieri. Absent: Councilor Hurley.

Also present: Jack Arsenio, CL&P, David Goodson, Manager, Vegetation Management, Barry Croak, Senior Arborist, Peter Gillespie, Planning & Zoning, Chris Traczyk, Chairperson Tourism Commission, Sally Katz, Director of Physical Services, Ken Baldwin, Robinson & Cole, Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, and Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk.

Mayor Montinieri invited Cub Scout Pack 51 to come up and lead the pledge of allegiance. He welcomed the Cub Scouts saying they came to look at government in action; and to experience leadership in action. Mayor Montinieri thanked them for coming and commented that hopefully the Council will demonstrate good leadership skills for them today.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Montinieri announced the public hearing on the **Resolution to Initiate the Charter Revision** process and asked if there were any members of the public who wished to speak on that topic.

George A. Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Cir. said Charter Revision is an important task that any level of government undertakes; it is the constitution by which we all live. He suggests: 1. "term limits" 2. citizens right to budget referendums 3. time to finish what residents have to say at a meeting. 4. charter meetings be well announced, held in environments where citizens can visit and participate 5. make certain that the mix of members is not just those who have vested interests.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd. agrees term limits is a good idea and extremely important. Also: 1 conflicts of interest 2. nepotism on elected boards, 3. transparency within town ( posting every check including payroll on the website as soon as it is cut) 4. also commented the need to have shared services happen between the Town and Board of Education which would allow some good cost savings.

Mayor Montinieri asked if anyone else would like to speak on the topic of charter revision. The Town Manager read a letter from Robert Gaynor regarding budget referendums which will be included in the minutes' record. After a last call, Mayor Montinieri called the hearing closed.

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

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John Miller, 45 Highland Street commented on: 1. throwing away \$400,000 on replacing the high school tennis courts 2. article in the Rare Reminder regarding the renovation is possibly misleading. 3. creating a worse traffic flow and questions if it will even work. 4. still make this job right - start with the parking location and not moving those tennis courts. 5. Police raised families here, served the town and they should be treated right.

Sheila Wells, 326 Hartford Ave., is a Wethersfield representative of the Citizens Advisory Council of the MDC advises the Council, town officials and citizens of an important public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 2013. The hearing is required by law as a result of proposed changes to the long-term control plant that was approved by the DEP in 2003 and modified in 2004. Proposed changes will directly impact the citizens of Wethersfield. he changes to be made to the plant will result in an increased charge in our MDC bills.

Gus Colantonio, 16 Morrison Ave., congratulated the new Council and commented on the lack of stop sign on Morrison Avenue. He then gave an update of the situation to the new Council.

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd., urged the Council 1. consider Mr. Colantonio's request for a stop sign 2. commented on the election results and the poor voter turnout 3. the State Budget, their need for money and will take it from the towns and that we need to be ready 4. also the increase from MDC.

### COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Martino reported he attended an EDIC meeting. One suggestion was to have the Town Planner to inquire for an intern working for academic credit, not for pay, from Central, to update our list of available properties in town. Once updated, meet with local commercial brokers about filling those stores. The Commission was very receptive, so they will look into it.

Councilor Martino commented that December 5<sup>th</sup> will be the Holidays on Main and December 12<sup>th</sup> will be the Salute to Business in Town and the Wethersfield Country Club.

### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Kotkin apologized to the residents in town and the Council for being unable to be sworn in with them. He was away on business. He looks forward to serving with the other eight members of the Council as well as serving with the nine members of the Board. He is honored to serve the Town of Wethersfield for a 5<sup>th</sup> term. The last four years have been a pleasure to serve with Councilor Hemmann as she was very fair and equitable to all members of the Council at all times. He looks forward to serving under Mayor Montinieri now and he thinks Paul is going to bring intelligence, honesty, humor, patience and an uncanny ability to bring disport parties together over the next two years. This is a good Council and we are all going to work together

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### TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Bridges apologized to the Wethersfield Volunteer Fire Department because he was not able to make their memorial dedication last Sunday. He congratulated them on the memorial. It is a terrific honor to the past 210 years of service for fire department to the community.

Mr. Bridges reported we did receive two bids for the new fire truck and they will be having a Public Safety Committee to review those bids with the Fire Department as soon as they can.

Mr. Bridges reported they are going back out to recruiting for the Finance Director with a heavy emphasis on accounting and CPA.

### COUNCIL ACTION

Councilor Hemmann moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATIONS OF JODI LATINA, 29 BLUEBERRY HILL FROM THE ETHICS BOARD, MICHAEL L. RELL, 57 BROAD STREET FROM THE WETHERSFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 18, 2013 AND MARK RUDEWICZ, 6 TIMBER TRAIL FROM THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 28, 2013"**, seconded by Councilor Manousos.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Roberts moved **"TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF STEVEN BARRY, 124 BLACK BIRCH RD., FROM THE WETHERSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL/HANMER BUILDING COMMITTEE EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 18, 2013"**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Deputy Mayor Barry moved **"TO APPOINT ELAINE ZIELLER AS LIBRARY LAISON TO THE WETHERSFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DISABILITIES EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 18, 2013 TO JUNE 30, 2015"**, seconded by Councilor Roberts.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Councilor Roberts moved **"TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION"**, seconded by Councilor Kotkin.

Mr. Bridges explained this resolution begins the charter revision process as the Charter requires us to review this every ten years.

He has received a handful of people interested in serving on the commission and as stated in his

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memo, the Council should put together a subcommittee or an adhoc committee to review those and make recommendations to the group within 30 days of establishing that commission. He also has spoken to the town attorney and they have attorney's experienced in the charter revision process can staff this committee and give them what they need legally and legal support over the next year or so in the revision process.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilor Martino moved **"TO APPROVE THE "CONSENT TO SUBLEASE" FOR THE PLACEMENT OF A CELLULAR TOWER ON THE ROOF OF THE MITCHELL ON THE PARK APARTMENTS AND ASSOCIATED GROUND EQUIPMENT LOCATED AT 226 PROSPECT STREET"**, seconded by Deputy Mayor Barry.

Mr. Bridges explained we were approached by the owners of the Mitchell on the Park apartment complex with a request to amend the lease with the town to allow them to put a 14-15 ft. south tower on the roof. He explained that we requested additional information and that has been provided in a series of financial analyses of the tower plus some photo metrics on what it would look like on top of the tower. He explained that representatives of the building and their attorneys are here this evening to answer any particular questions.

Councilor Kotkin suggested that maybe it would be helpful to know what the financial benefits to the town were and asked to go through those for the residents.

Mr. Bridges responded the straight-up property tax on the tower itself without the different arrays, the assessor estimates that's got taxable value of about \$6,000. That's the taxes that we would receive. He stated that as part of our lease with Mitchell on the Park, the town receives a portion of any net revenue above certain operating costs so their lease with Verizon would be included into that calculation, that revenue, so we would receive a portion of that if they are in that revenue or over that threshold of operating expenses. He stated that they have really not met that threshold for the past several years due to the economy and so forth. Mr. Bridges commented that there are a couple of avenues there for the town to see additional revenue from the placement of the tower. He explained that the personal property tax from the individual carrier would be very dependent upon the type and style of array so the assessor did not have an estimate on the personal property taxes from the carrier themselves.

Councilor Kotkin asked if this is a Verizon Wireless tower. Mr. Bridges responded yes.

Councilor Kotkin asked if this will improve the wireless service for Verizon wireless residents in town. Ken Baldwin from Robinson & Cole on behalf of Verizon Wireless responded yes, there are some significant gaps in service in that part of town that this will take care of nicely.

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Councilor Manousos asked what is the threshold for the additional revenues in town and when does that kick in. Mr. Bridges responded that it is 10% of net rent after expenses are deducted out. So it reads “net income shall be defined as revenues generated from the use of the premises in the building located on the premises less maintenance, landscaping, reasonable management fees and operational costs.” Mr. Bridges added that every year we get a certified report from the auditors (CPA firm) of the building owner with that calculation.

Councilor Manousos asked if there is a reason why over the past few years we haven’t seen any revenue kickers from that. Mr. Bridges responded on the rent side because they have operated in a net-loss position.

Councilor Manousos asked if that was because revenues were low or expenses had gone up or both. Mr. Bridges responded yes.

Councilor Manousos asked is this the best deal we are going to get, \$30,000. Mr. Bridges responded that we are not going to see that, that’s the estimated rent to the property owner which we included in the net rent calculation.

Councilor Manousos commented unless we amend this and ask for something different. Mr. Bridges commented that you would have to amend the base lease, not the consent to sublease. Because the base lease contains the rent provisions and we just amended the base lease a year ago to extend the term and further define the taxable status of the property.

Mayor Montinieri commented it should be noted this group has spent some time on the depictions to get visional impacts to a minimum. He appreciates them coming back after a slight delay in trying to assure the town what some of the visuals which we were questioning. He stated that P&Z obviously did approve it.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.  
Town Manager Bridges said it would still have to follow the process in place before it is allowed.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Montinieri announced that the next agenda item will be a presentation from CL&P regarding the tree trimming program.

Councilor Kotkin excused himself from the room because he works for an affiliate of CL&P.

Mr. Bridges explained that on the podium this evening is a map of some highlighted streets which is what we will be discussing this evening. He invited Jack Arsego from CL&P up to the podium.

Mr. Arsego introduced David Goodson, Manager of the Vegetation Department and Barry Croke,

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Senior Arborist at CL&P.

David Goodson explained that since their last meeting here they have had several subsequent meetings and have developed a plan which will be presented this evening. He commented that they met with the town Tree Committee and agreed to remove four to five trees on the town green and replace those next spring with right-tree, right-place which are trees that will be compatible with the green and power lines. He explained the plantings will take place in April and hopefully right around Arbor Day. He explained that their arborist Barry Croke and the town's tree warden Phil Smithwick have reviewed those sections in town where we need to complete our work and those you see on the map which is color coded with the type of work we plan to do and there is a key on the bottom and will explain briefly what that key means. He explained that ETT stands for enhanced tree trimming and that is on sections of line where our goal is to remove all over hanging limbs and also get trees that are in poor shape removed. The RBB (blue) is what we called a reclaimed backbone. If you recall the backbone of our electrical system is a key component of our system because all the lines that you see around it, all the small roads, the lines in yellow are fed off of the backbone and our goal there is to remove overhanging limbs and also to remove trees that are at risk because of their condition. Lastly, the SMT, the yellow is routine maintenance where we get clearance of 8 ft. to the side, 10 ft. below and 15 ft. overhead. He explained all of this work will be performed under the following terms. He explained we have and will continue to work under a permit of the tree warden. We will notify all abutting property owners of the proposed work which includes renotifying people that we have already notified we are going to go out and reestablish that communication. Both Barry Croke and Phil Smithwick will meet with the crews before we restart to set expectations, outline what their expectations are on a daily basis and then they will both be providing oversight for those crews throughout the project which we expect to complete by the end of this year.

Councilor Hemmann asked over the past there were several other areas in the surrounding area where the arborist was going back and forth between all the areas overseeing, will there be a consistent mechanism for that oversight. Will an arborist be in town when the crews are trimming those trees or again is it a similar situation?

Mr. Goodson responded it is similar. He goes from town-to-town throughout the greater Hartford area. He doesn't spend all of his time in Wethersfield, but those crews also have a general foreman supervisor goes around to those crews as well as a quasi-supervisor. The person does the notification goes out and meets with the crews and communicates back and forth what the homeowners expectation are for abutting homeowners as well as your tree warden being out there.

Deputy Mayor Barry asked how much notice will be given to the abutting landowners and how are you going to notify the homeowners.

Mr. Goodson responded the plan for renotification is door-to-door.

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Deputy Mayor Barry asked how far in advance before you start will you be notifying these people. Mr. Goodson responded a very short time now because we are closing in on the end of the year. He stated that we will start notifying as soon as (could not understand audio).

Deputy Mayor Barry asked if there is a process in place if folks aren't home or you don't actually speak to them personally. Mr. Goodson responded we have a door hanger that we leave on the door but because the State Statutes require us to provide notification, we won't do the work until we provide that notification.

Mayor Montinieri commented that one of the things that he recalls when he was there several months ago was somewhat reflective of the out-of-state crews who were left to kind of conduct their business without necessarily intervention or oversight and you've addressed that tonight but there was also and this is sort of subjective, but one of the things we have heard pretty significantly from residents particularly in the green area is that the work was done so aggressively without any real care about the appearance at the end. Mayor Montinieri asked if that has been discussed or is there any thought about how we can ensure that residents aren't going to be shocked by the extent of the cutting.

Mr. Goodson responded that that is part of the pre-restart meeting with the crews to make sure they fully understand what the expectations are in Wethersfield and to point out those properties where we will not get what we call our full clearance if there is an objection by either the tree warden or an abutter to make sure that they understand that on this particular tree.

Mayor Montinieri commented that the Broad Street green particularly was the source of some real contentious reaction and I think you said you have identified five trees are going to come out of the green. Mr. Goodson responded four or five.

Mayor Montinieri asked if those are going to be marked in advance so that at least the public will be made aware of it and also simultaneously can you identify where the other ones will be planted in some fashion so people can see it visually.

Mr. Bridges explained we met with the Tree Commission and the Village Improvement Association is going to run this process for the community. He explained that they will hold some public meeting with the stakeholders around the green to help pick variety and placement so we will have some public session on this over the wintertime and be prepared for planting in the spring so the specifics are worked out but there is four to five trees that are likely to come out and be replaced with different species based upon those meetings with the stakeholders.

Mayor Montinieri commented at the very initial process over the next few weeks when you get going again, it would be very good to have some town staff there visible and so residents can respond and we can show that we are paying attention to it because that is obviously a big part of it. Mayor Montinieri commented that he appreciates CL&P coming back with a solid plan and knows that there has been a lot of concern in town when it occurred, particularly the aggressive

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thing was a big thing and suggested that the workers come through with sensitivity to their cutting.

*Councilor Hemmann asked with regard to the notifications, if people are not home during the day because they're at work or just not happen to be at home, are you going to wait until there is a response, is there a timeframe related to getting that notification and being able to respond or the notification is clear that it is there and they didn't know and they come home and see that work has been done.*

Mr. Goodson responded ~~to a question from Mayor Hemmann and explained~~ that notifications usually have a 15-day waiting period but we may cut that in half, but it is not going to be an overnight type of thing. He also responded to Councilor Manousos' question stating that they don't give an exact date when they will be back to trim, but give a window. Mayor Montinieri thanked Mr. Goodson for coming back.

Councilor Roberts asked if this will be done in approximately six weeks. Mr. Goodson responded that that's what we are hoping.

Mayor Montinieri invited Peter Gillespie up to the podium for the Economic Report. Peter Gillespie walked through the Economic Report which is attached to the end of the meeting minutes. ~~Mayor~~ Councilor Hemmann commented that we have been through the process with the façade loan program and in looking at the railroad place location, we asked the question back when the new owner took that over, was that all reconciled with the sale and then now resale.

Mr. Gillespie responded the program is set up like a loan but we don't take a traditional monthly payment. He explained that if the property does sell within the 10-year loan period, they have to pay us back, and in that situation, they pay us everything back so they fully refunded the program.

~~Mayor~~ Councilor Hemmann asked if those trees were replaced because the trees were taken down inadvertently. Mr. Gillespie responded yes, he believes they were. He hasn't monitored that recently and hasn't received any complaints, but there were evergreen screens out in the back, yes.

Councilor Rell asked if there is any talk about parking in the front of the Masonic building on Main Street. Mr. Gillespie responded that they are proposing their own parking off-site and are also proposing an addition with a garage so in terms of their demand, it will be addressed. He stated that we are soon about to embark on the redesign of the Main and Church Street intersection and that concept plan has some additional parking that we think can be added to the intersection both on Church Street as well as potentially on Main Street. Mr. Gillespie stated we are looking at that to see if we can add to what is there right now but that will be dependent on how the public process goes and we'll have to look at the safety and site line but there is hope that a couple of additional spaces could be added.



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Councilor Rell asked if there will be opportunity for the public to speak. Mr. Gillespie responded, yes, definitely.

Councilor Roberts asked if Chips Restaurant is down from the Shoreline. Mr. Gillespie responded yes, same folks.

Councilor Roberts commented about the church on Russell Rd. and asked what property was that.

Mr. Gillespie responded that there are a couple of single family homes on Russell Rd. right across from the Toll Brothers property, it's a vacant lot.

Councilor Roberts asked if that was State property. Mr. Gillespie responded no.

Councilor Montinieri asked if there was a committee looking at the Church and Main discussion that we just referenced. Mr. Gillespie responded that we haven't started that process. He stated that the funding for that is coming from the STEAP grant and that STEAP grant has a couple of different projects in it. He explained that in one of those projects we are still waiting for the paperwork and the documentation and all of that. He noted that Mike Turner did solicit some proposals from engineering firms to help us with that process but we have not started that. He also stated that they have not discussed whether a committee would be formed so there is still plenty of time to discuss that.

Mayor Montinieri asked what he thinks the time frame will be that we are looking at. Mr. Gillespie responded it's all dependent on how much public input you want to put into that process in terms of how long the time would be. He stated that the paperwork with the State grant should be resolved shortly so the planning would go toward the wintertime.

Mayor Montinieri commented that he would recommend and other Councilors would agree more than less with the public input and stated that that is one that catches a lot of attention and is an area that is obviously critical to our historic district. Mayor Montinieri commented that almost all of our historic district events happen around that area and he has heard everything from people in favor of traffic medians to hating traffic medians so he thinks it could be something that we want to make sure that we really, really want to get some public input on.

Mayor Montinieri commented on design review and the pawn shop on Silas Deane and stated that people seem to be concerned about the amount of window space that is covered with advertising which he thinks is probably in conflict with our Design Review Requirements and also the amount of retail business that seems to be spilling out into the driveway creating a very unattractive appearance in the area and that is pretty important to us as we look at the town. Mayor Montinieri asked Mr. Gillespie to address that and to give a sense as to what we can and can't do. Mr. Gillespie responded that he did receive a couple of complaints and he did

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investigate the work that they had done recently. He explained that although it appears that they did a whole new façade, they simply repainted the building and the signage, the color which leaves a lot to be desired. He shared that we do not regulate color during the design review process so that went through without the need for our approval. In terms of the window signage, we do allow, it's a zoning issue more than a design review issue, we allow 25% window signage for all businesses. He stated I can't say that that's monitored and calculated on a regular basis for all businesses so it's certainly probably something we can look at from a zoning point of view. He explained in terms of the outside, I did speak directly to the manager of the space for the last three or four weeks all of that outside material we directed them to bring it all inside. They did not have a license for that so the space has been cleaned up at least from that perspective.

Mayor Montinieri commented it is well past 25% just visual, so does it require a complaint for us to further it. Mr. Gillespie responded that he will pass it onto the Building Department and then have the Zoning office pay them a visit and do some quick analysis and see where we are at.

Mayor Montinieri commented that he thinks that would be prudent. He commented that we don't want to be necessarily unbusiness friendly to them, but the cosmetics and the appearance is definitely troubling and if we do have something in design review, we should enforce it and be fairly vigilant.

Councilor Kotkin asked what the square feet is and approximate cost is with the Hartford Hospital Office.

Mr. Gillespie responded that he didn't know off the top of his head but can certainly get that information for him. He explained that it's a substantial addition for them and they went through a pretty complicated review process in terms of available parking, what they were losing and lot coverage. He stated that they actually had to get some variances because it didn't meet all of our requirements. He commented that he believes the commissions were pretty flexible with them and that it is a busy site. Mr. Gillespie stated that they spent a lot of time and they added parking behind the back of Liberty Bank and the Laser Eye Surgery building and believes that at the end of the day if they control where their employee's park it should be good there.

Councilor Kotkin asked if he can just give a little summary of it that would be great.

Councilor Roberts commented that maybe we need to look at adding color to an area of regulation.

Mr. Gillespie agreed but stated it is a dicey one to regulate and there will be an opportunity to discuss that. We do have a little bit of money to come up with a set of more detailed design review standards so may be a way of working something into the regulations regarding additional aspects of design review that we should be thinking about but regulating color has always been tough even the historic district doesn't regulate color, but he can take it back to them for discussion and see where we come out. Councilor Montinieri thanked Peter for coming.

Approved

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO ACCEPT A GRANT OF \$17,500 FROM THE HARTFORD FOUNDATION OF PUBLIC GIVING AND A \$35,000 CONNECTICUT HUMANITIES GRANT FOR THE MANUFACTURE AND INSTALLATION OF INTERPRETIVE AND VILLAGE CENTER SIGNS IN OLD WETHERSFIELD”**, seconded by Councilor Roberts.

Chris Traczyk, Chairperson, Tourism Commission explained these two grants are actually an initiative of the Tourism Commission and actually tie in with the STEAP grant that the Planning Department applied for some of the changes on to the Main Street intersection as well as the vibrant community grant which was just completed which was to talk about adaptive reuse. She explained that they had an opportunity last year to really tie in a number of those grants together to really further the master plan that was put together under the Preserve America Grant the town received. This is the latest phase which was to develop the interpretive trail and the funding from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is willing to do the design work and then the Connecticut Humanities is to actually do the manufacturing and installation of that signage. She stated it will go a long way to making the Town of Wethersfield, especially Old Wethersfield, part of the Tourism attraction. We really never had the funding to be able to talk about our history and have it available for the public. Particularly, the kiosk will give information to visitors as they are entering. Some of the complaints we have had about visitors coming after hours on the weekends when the Keeney Center isn't necessarily open and they can't get any information, so we urge the Council to accept the two grants.

Councilor Rell asked if the directional signs would look similar to the newer signs that have been installed in Old Wethersfield and around town.

Ms. Traczyk responded actually they will not. These are interpretive signs so there are some fairly standard rules that you have to comply with in terms of how the signs are built and what they look like. She explained that there is one in front of Lucky Lou's which would give you an idea. It is wheelchair accessible, easy for people to read and gives you little snippets of history or a little piece of what is happening at that particular building and what the history of that was.

Mayor Montinieri asked where the kiosk would be located. Ms. Traczyk responded we are probably looking at doing one either right by the Keeney or Webb-Deane Stevens. The final location hasn't been determined because it is really where people are going to go initially so you want them to start there and then send them out.

Peter Gillespie explained one of the kiosks will have at least a map of the historic district. Phil Lohman who we recruited to be our artist on these, will use some of his mapping skills throughout this project. There is likely to be a large kiosk in addition to those locations probably down at Wethersfield Cove and one more at an area yet to be determined. We plan to have a stakeholders group who will all have input in this as well as significant contributions from the Historical Society and the Webb Deane Stevens Museum.

Approved

Councilor Manousos asked if these are just static kiosks not an interactive, no connection. Ms. Traczyk responded yes.

Mayor Montinieri thanked Ms. Traczyk and stated that Tourism has been doing some great work on this for quite some time and getting that grant was a nice achievement.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Mayor Montinieri invited Mr. Bridges to discuss the next agenda item which was the annual meeting plan.

Mr. Bridges explained as we move into the budget process, perhaps it's time to have another planning meeting with the governing body to figure out short-term and long-term goals. He commented we have done that over the past couple of years in the wintertime. It can be a different level of sophistication where you have or don't have department heads to talk about budget and longer-term goals. He stated the staff is looking for some direction on whether or not you want to have this kind of meeting and if you do, the breadth of what you want to cover.

Councilor Kotkin thinks it would make a lot of sense especially with a new Council and three new members to have that meeting. Schedules might be a little difficult between now and the end of the year due to the holidays. He thinks sometime between mid-January and mid-February to help give the Town Manager some direction on setting up the budget for one thing.

Mayor Montinieri added he thinks it would be good to push it back just a little bit more toward February because we have several new Councilors he thinks would be beneficial to spend a month or so participating at the Council level and getting a feel for the dynamic. Perhaps getting together in some form of adhoc planning and vision would be a little more beneficial after they had a little more chance to step in. He also talked a little bit with Stathis and Donna about getting some input from both sides about vision as we look forward. To craft a visionary fabric of everybody's input at the dais as we craft that. He thinks this would be helpful when we do structure the agenda with Mr. Bridges. We can assemble some of that information, begin a dialogue to identify and target things that are going to be really important to us. We may want to think about those focus areas identifying some staff and department heads that might want to participate based on what surfaces. Those are the two recommendations he thinks would be helpful for them at the table and thinks it require either a half or three quarters of a day. He remembers residents in town expressed interest when we had our planning meeting. With respect to expenses, we kept it local. The last one was at Silas Deane Middle School and we brought our own lunches.

Councilor Kotkin suggested giving the town residents enough warning in case they want to attend.

Deputy Mayor Barry moved **"TO DECREASE THE COST OF MATTRESS DISPOSAL AT**

Approved

**THE TRANSFER STATION TO \$15 BEGINNING DECEMBER 1, 2013”,** seconded by Councilor Martino.

Mr. Bridges explained that the cost for the town to dispose of mattresses has been reduced and we would like to pass on that savings to the people who bring mattresses to us to be disposed of. He commented that Sally Katz, Director of Physical Services, is here to answer any questions.

Councilor Rell commented the State has started to have the cost of mattress removal added to the selling of mattresses. In the future, the Town fees may not be required, as all of the fees will be paid up front.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

### BIDS

Councilor Kotkin moved **“TO AWARD BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF FLEET VEHICLES: 2 UTILITY POLICE INTERCEPTORS TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF \$61,584 AND 2 SEDAN POLICE INTERCEPTORS WITH A TOTAL OF \$56,520”**, seconded by Councilor Martino.

Mayor Montinieri commented he assumes this was within our budget, was included in our previous budget, under the State bid process and asked what the timeframe was for these to be acquired. Sally Katz responded hopefully within 3 to 4 months because they are a special order.

Mayor Montinieri asked if they were a replacement vehicle. Ms. Katz responded yes.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

### MINUTES

Councilor Roberts moved **“TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 11, 2013 AS DRAFTED”** seconded by Councilor Hemmann.

Councilor Roberts noted that on page 3 in the third paragraph, the spelling of the name “Gerry” should be changed to “Gerri”.

All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-1. Councilor Kotkin abstained as he was absent on business.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Young, 20 Coppermill Rd., commented on the MDC cost increase on water prices. He asked if anything was going on with the vacant Health Bridge Nursing Home on Nott St. and

Approved

Wolcott Hill Rd. and suggested to possibly doing something with that to bring in revenue. Mr. Young commented that Councilor Kotkin leads by good example by excusing himself from the room when it comes to conflicts of interest at the Council meetings.

Councilor Ruhe, 956 Cloverdale Cir., commented on the CL&P project and stated that his personal tree situation was handled appropriately. He urged the Council to keep the blight situation in town high on the agenda.

Dolores Sassano reminded there will be a Special Meeting for the Council on Thursday, November 21, @ 7:00 in the Chamber in conjunction with the Building Committee to award bids on abatement and demo for the High School.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:40 p.m., Councilor Barry moved **"TO ADJOURN THE MEETING"** seconded by Councilor Kotkin. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano  
Town Clerk

Approved by Vote of Council  
December 2, 2013

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Meeting minutes were changed on page 7 to correct several references of "Mayor Hemmann" to be changed to "Councilor Hemmann" and to add a question from Councilor Hemmann regarding notification door hangers.